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DOE-RL/DIS

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Mr. Thomas W. Ferns  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12  
Richland, WA 99352-0550

Dear Mr. Ferns:

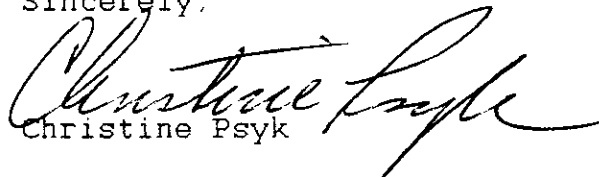
The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on the Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement (HRA EIS). I am writing to express my support for the preferred alternative to protect the ecologically significant lands at Hanford to ensure that they are protected from agricultural, commercial grazing and mining activities. Such protection would ensure that the Hanford Reach would be protected from impacts associated with those activities.

However, I am also in support of and urge DOE support for some modifications to the preferred alternative. Specifically, lands adjoining the Hanford Site should be managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge. The adjoining lands in question include: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands. This will provide a large, continuous "crescent" of protected habitat lands surrounding central Hanford.

Finally, to ensure long-term protection for key native species and systems located across the Site (including central Hanford), there should be no agriculture, commercial mining, or livestock grazing permitted.

In closing, these lands are vitally important to preserve ecological functions and habitats. DOE should expeditiously make final decisions on management of these lands by issuing separate decisions for the areas mentioned above.

Sincerely,

  
Christine Psyk